AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-23 Canceled.

24.   (new) A method in a data processing system for remotely recovering a client computer system's primary password, the client computer system being coupled to a server computer utilizing a network, the method comprising the steps of:

prior to the client computer system completing a boot process and before an operating system controls the client computer system:

(a)   prompting a user to enter a primary password, correct entry of the primary password being required prior to the client computer system being accessible by a user;

(b)   transmitting an alert to the server computer in response to an incorrect entry of the primary password;

(c)   receiving an interrogative associated with the user of the client computer system, but which is different than the primary password;

(d)   prompting the user with the received interrogative;

(e)   transmitting the user's response to the interrogative to the server;

(f)   verifying correct entry of the transmitted response at the server;

(g)   transmitting the user's primary password to the client computer system in response to correct entry of the transmitted response; and

(h)   displaying the user's primary password wherein the recovery of the primary password is completed prior to completing the boot process.

25.   (new) The method according to claim 24, further comprising the step of providing said interrogative including a question and correct answer pair.

26.   (new) The method according to claim 25, further comprising the step of recovering said primary password from said server computer system in response to a successful completion of said interrogative.

27.   (new) The method according to claim 26, further comprising the steps of:

displaying said question included within said interrogative utilizing said client computer system in response to an incorrect entry of said primary password; and

prompting a user to enter an answer to said question, wherein an entry of said correct answer will successfully complete said interrogative.

28.   (new) The method according to claim 27, further comprising the step of:

establishing a unique client identifier; and

storing said question and said correct answer together with said unique client identifier in said server computer system.

29.   (new) The method according to claim 28, further comprising the steps of:

transmitting a request for said question utilizing said client computer system in response to an incorrect entry of said primary password, said request including said unique client identifier; and

transmitting said question utilizing said server computer system in response to a receipt of said request.

30.   (new) The method according to claim 29, further comprising the steps of:

transmitting a proposed answer to said question utilizing said client computer system; and

determining whether said proposed answer is said correct answer utilizing said server computer system.

31.   (new) The method according to claim 30, further comprising the step of prohibiting access to said client computer system by prohibiting transmission of said primary password in response to said proposed answer being unequal to said correct answer.

32.   (new) The method according to claim 31, further comprising the step of completing said boot process in response to said client computer system receiving said primary password from said server computer system.

33.   (new) A system for remotely recovering a client computer system's primary password comprising:

a client computer system that prompts a user to enter a primary password prior to the client computer system completing a boot process and before an operating system controls the client computer system, correct entry of the primary password being required prior to the client computer system being accessible by a user; and,

a network device coupled to the client computer system and to a server computer utilizing a network, wherein the network device is capable of:

(a)   transmits an alert to the server computer in response to an incorrect entry of the primary password and is capable of receiving an interrogative associated with the user of the client computer system, but which is different than the primary password;

(b)   prompting the user with the received interrogative;

(c)   transmitting the user's response to the interrogative to the server;

(d)   receiving the user's primary password in response to a correct transmitted response; and

(e)   displaying the user's primary password, wherein the recovery of the primary password is completed prior to completing the boot process.

34.   (new) The system according to claim 33, wherein the client computer system displays a question included within said interrogative in response to an incorrect entry of said primary password; and prompts a user to enter an answer to said question, wherein an entry of said correct answer will successfully complete said interrogative.

35.   (new) The system according to claim 34, wherein the client computer system completes said boot process in response to said client computer system receiving said primary password from said server computer system.

36. (new) An article of manufacture comprising machine-readable medium including program logic embedded therein that causes control circuitry for remotely recovering a client computer system's primary password, the client computer system being coupled to a server computer utilizing a network, to perform the steps of:

prior to the client computer system completing a boot process and before an operating system controls the client computer system:

> (i) prompting a user to enter a primary password, correct entry of the primary password being required prior to the client computer system being accessible by a user;
>
> (j) transmitting an alert to the server computer in response to an incorrect entry of the primary password;
>
> (k) receiving an interrogative associated with the user of the client computer system, but which is different than the primary password;
>
> (l) prompting the user with the received interrogative;
>
> (m) transmitting the user's response to the interrogative to the server;
>
> (n) verifying correct entry of the transmitted response at the server;
>
> (o) transmitting the user's primary password to the client computer system in response to correct entry of the transmitted response; and
>
> (p) displaying the user's primary password wherein the recovery of the primary password is completed prior to completing the boot process.

37. (new) The article of manufacture of Claim 36, further comprising the step of providing said interrogative including a question and correct answer pair.

38. (new) The article of manufacture of Claim 37, further comprising the step of recovering said primary password from said server computer system in response to a successful completion of said interrogative.

39. (new) The article of manufacture of Claim 38, further comprising the steps of:

displaying said question included within said interrogative utilizing said client computer system in response to an incorrect entry of said primary password; and

prompting a user to enter an answer to said question, wherein an entry of said correct answer will successfully complete said interrogative.

40. (new) The article of manufacture of Claim 39, further comprising the step of:

establishing a unique client identifier; and

storing said question and said correct answer together with said unique client identifier in said server computer system.

41. (new) The article of manufacture of Claim 40, further comprising the steps of:

transmitting a request for said question utilizing said client computer system in response to an incorrect entry of said primary password, said request including said unique client identifier; and

transmitting said question utilizing said server computer system in response to a receipt of said request.

42. (new) The article of manufacture of Claim 41, further comprising the steps of:

transmitting a proposed answer to said question utilizing said client computer system; and

determining whether said proposed answer is said correct answer utilizing said server computer system.

43. (new) The article of manufacture of Claim 42, further comprising the step of prohibiting access to said client computer system by prohibiting transmission of said primary password in response to said proposed answer being unequal to said correct answer.

44. (new) The article of manufacture of Claim 43, further comprising the step of completing said boot process in response to said client computer system receiving said primary password from said server computer system.